

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

STR-08 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 AID-20 IGA-02 IO-14 EUR-25

DRC-01 /177 W

----- 028953

O 161512Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5884

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CARACAS 9101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAS CU VE

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

REF: SAN JOSE 3557

FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF A STATEMENT ISSUED
BY THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CARRIED IN THE
CARACAS PRESS SEPTEMBER 15:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DENIES
IN THE MOST CATEGORICAL FASHION THE INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
BY AN INTERNATIONAL /NEWS/ AGENCY FROM WASHINGTON,
ACCORDING TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA PROPOSED TO
VARIOUS COUNTRIES JOINTLY TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA
OUTSIDE THE AGREEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN FORCE,
BUT THAT COSTA RICA WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED.

WITH RESPECT TO THIS MATTER, IT SHOULD BE CLARIFIED THAT THE
POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS BEEN FINAL AND
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DEFINITE INSOFAR AS ITS JUDGMENT THAT AGREEMENT TO

SUSPEND THE MEASURES PRESENTLY IN FORCE AGAINST CUBA SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN THE OAS, LEAVING EACH NATION FREE TO ESTABLISH ITS DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY.

THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHICH IS INADEQUATE FOR OUR TIMES, SHOULD BE THE OBJECT OF PROFOUND TRANSFORMATIONS, WITHOUT ANY QUESTION, BUT UNTIL THEY COME ABOUT THE JURIDICO-POLITICAL FORCE OF THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

VENEZUELA HAVING BEEN THE COUNTRY WHICH REQUESTED THE APPLICATION OF THE MEASURES AGAINST CUBA NOW IN FORCE, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT ITS OBLIGATION IS YET GREATER TO OBEY THEM SO LONG AS THEY ARE IN EFFECT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REVIEWING THE SITUATION WHICH WAS EARLIER CREATED AND WAS OF A TRANSITORY NATURE, INASMUCH AS ITS ACTION COULD NOT AND CANNOT REALLY GO BEYOND THE VERY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MOTIVATED IT.

AT NO TIME HAS THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DISPLAYED AN INCLINATION TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA UNILATERALLY, NOR IS IT PROMOTING THE REESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH RELATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS SIMPLY EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING DETERIORATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE MINIFEST IN THE UNILATERAL DECISIONS ADOPTED BY VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WITH RESPECT TO THE CUBAN CASE.

WITHIN THIS SCHEME OF THINGS WE HAVE ENDORSED THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA TO SUPPORT REVIEW OF THE MEASURES AGREED TO AGAINST CUBA SOME YEARS BACK, ALL OF WHICH WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF TH JOINING COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA ON AUGUST 29 OF THIS YEAR--WHICH WAS GIVEN THE WIDEST DISSEMINATION BY THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL--IN WHICH IS FIXED VERY CLEARLY THE POSITION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE CUBAN CASE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA AGREES WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE OAS THAT IN THE PAST YEARS NEW AND DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN CREATED; THUS THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS ALSO WELCOMED THE JUDGMENT THAT TODAY IN OUR HEMISPHERE THERE DO NOT PERSIST THE CONDITIONS PREVAILING WHEN THE OAS ADOPTED THE MEASURES WHICH WE NOW BELIEVE SHOULD BE THE

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OBJECT OF SPECIAL REVIEW BY THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION OF THE OAS. END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SANCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA09101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740258-1027
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740943/aaaabkmu.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN JOSE 3557
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN SANCTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CU, VE, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005